Borough of Heywood.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR

Year ending December 31st, 1893.

H. WISKEN,
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

A. B. PILLING,
TOWN CLERK.

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REPORT OF MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee.

GENTLEMEN,

The total number of deaths for the year ending December 31st, 1893, is 542. The total number of births for the same period is 673, shewing a natural increase in the population of 61 as against 106 in the previous year.

The number of deaths in the different Wards is as follows:—

North Ward	189
South Ward	252
West Ward	101
Total.....	542

The rate of mortality for the whole district is 23·2 per thousand.

For the North Ward	24·5
South Ward	24·6
West Ward	18·7

The mean death rate for the 12 previous years is equal to a rate of 19·6 per thousand.

The death rate throughout all England for the year 1893 was 19·2 per thousand persons estimated to be living in the middle of the year.

The total number of births for the year is 673 which is equal to a rate of 28·9 per thousand. The rate for the preceding year was 26·2.

The rate of infant mortality measured by the proportion of deaths of infants under one year, to the total number of births is equal to 187·2 per thousand. The rate for the previous year was 176·4 per thousand. The rate of infant mortality throughout all England for the year 1893 was 159 per thousand.

Zymotic Diseases.—The total number of deaths is 45, which is equal to 8·3 per cent. of the whole deaths. This class of diseases proved to be most fatal in the months of October, November and December, 24 of the total deaths having occurred in these months. The mean percentage for the preceding 13 years was 12·1.

Notification of Diseases.—Under this Act a total of 306 cases have been reported as under treatment, viz :—

Small Pox	5
Scarlet Fever	225
Typhoid Fever.....	30
Puerperal Fever	2
Diphtheria	44
Total.....	306

It is here worth noting that this is the highest number reported since and including the year 1885, and that the zymotic death rate is lower than the mean rate for the previous 13 years.

Scarlet Fever.—Of the 225 cases reported 208 or 92·4 per cent. recovered. In the previous year 94·2 of the cases treated recovered. The recoveries for the last 9 years

have averaged from 90 to 94 per cent. The epidemic is a continuation of that of last year.

Typhoid Fever.—Of the 30 cases reported four terminated fatally, showing a mortality of 13·3 per cent In the previous year 18 cases were reported as under treatment with four deaths, and in the year 1891, 13 with nine deaths. The greatest number of cases occurred in the months of August, September and October.

Influenza.—Seven deaths from this disease, and its complications have been registered. In the previous year 26 deaths occurred.

Diphtheria.—Of the 44 cases reported nine have proved fatal. The following list gives the months in which the diseases were prevalent, and in which the deaths occurred.

Cases Reported.		Deaths.
January	4	0
February	4	2
March	4	2
April	4	0
May	4	0
June	1	1
July	7	2
August	2	0
September	1	0
October	3	0
November	8	1
December	2	1
Total	44	Total 9

The greatest number of cases was reported in the months of November and July, but the highest mortality was in the months of February and March, when two out of the four cases proved fatal in each month. Four of the deaths occurred in children under five years of age, and five at ages exceeding this.

SUMMARY OF THE FOREGOING.—The death rate is higher than that of the year 1892, higher than the mean rate for the 12 previous years, and higher than the rate throughout all England. The West Ward has the lowest death rate, while those of the North and South Wards are practically equal. The birth rate is ~~lower~~ higher than that of the previous year by 2·7. The infant mortality is higher than that in the year 1892, as it is also higher than the rate throughout all England. The percentage of deaths from Zymotic diseases is lower than that of the previous year.

TABLE No. 1.

Shows Mortality from all causes at the subjoined ages, in each of the different Wards of the Borough, with the Annual Death Rate per thousand appertaining to each.

	Under one year.	One and under Five.	Five and under Fifteen.	Fifteen and under Twenty five	Twenty five and under Sixty.	Sixty and upwards.	Total.	Rate per 1000 Living.
North Ward.....	42	22	10	10	56	49	189	24·5
South Ward	63	39	9	12	69	60	252	24·6
West Ward.....	14	15	5	3	34	30	101	18·7
Totals	119	76	24	25	159	139	542	

Death rate per thousand of population for the year 1892.....21·7
" " " " 1891.....25·3
" " " " 1890.....19·0
" " " " 1889..... 20·5
" " " " 1888... . .....18·2
" " " " 1887.....19·0
" " " " 1886.....19·0
" " " " 1885.....17·7
" " " " 1884.....19·6
" " " " 1883.....18·4
" " " " 1882.....17·2

Death rate per thousand of population for the year of children under one year ..... 5·4

Per centage of deaths under one year to total deaths for the year.....23·2

TABLE No. 2.

Shows the number of Deaths in each Month, and the Ward in which they occurred.

DISTRICT.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.
NORTH WARD	14	17	10	13	18	11	22	12	16	17	19	20
SOUTH WARD	26	28	13	16	14	18	22	28	15	20	32	20
WEST WARD	13	8	8	12	9	4	6	5	6	6	10	14
TOTALS	53	53	31	41	41	33	50	45	37	43	61	54

TABLE No. 3.

Number and Cause of Death in each Ward of the Borough.

District.	Small Pox.	Measles	Scarlatina	Diphtheria.	Croup	Whooping Cough.	Continued Fevers.			Cholera	Erysipelas.	Puerperal Fever.	Ague.	Bronchitis, Pneumonia, & Pleurisy	Other Diseases.	Total Deaths.
							Typhus.	Enteric or Typhoid.	Other or Doubtful.							
North Ward		1	3	1	...	2	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	42	139	189
South Ward		6	10	7	...	2	...	2	...	.	...	2	...	50	173	252
West Ward		1	4	1	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	20	73	101
Totals.		8	17	9	...	4	...	4	...	...	1	2	...	112	385	542

TABLE No. 4.

Number and Cause of Death in each Month

CAUSE OF DEATH.	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Totals
Small Pox.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...
Typhoid Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	...	1	4
Typhus Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..
Scarlet Fever	...	...	1	...	1	...	2	1	...	2	6	4	17
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	3	2	2	8
Whooping Cough.....	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	2	...	...	...	...	4
Diphtheria	...	2	2	...	...	1	2	...	...	...	1	1	9
Bronchitis, Pneumonia, and Pleurisy	21	14	3	9	10	6	3	4	5	11	14	12	112
Diseases not named above.....	32	37	24	32	30	24	43	37	31	26	38	34	388
Totals	53	53	31	41	41	33	50	45	37	43	61	54	542
Rates	27·3	27·3	15·9	21·1	21·1	17·0	25·7	23·1	19·0	22.1	31·4	27·8	23·2

A summary of action taken and enquiries made as to conditions injurious to health existing in the district, and an account of the Sanitary state of the district at the end of the year.

Systematic inspections have been made by the Inspector and myself, as also by the insanitary dwellings sub-committee. The lodging houses have been fairly well kept and conducted, and no case of infectious disease has been reported from any of them. An application was made to your committee to sanction the conversion of a row of old houses into lodging houses, but this was very properly declined. If more lodging houses are required,(and I think they are not,)they should be new buildings, the style and site of which should be approved of by the sanitary anthority.

The slaughter houses are mostly carefully kept, and clean, and the meat supply generally good. The provision of public slaughter houses is a question which deserves your attention. This would facilitate the examination of the meat, and prevent diseased specimens being placed on the market, the animals also, if necessary, could be examined before being slaughtered. Only one person during the year was convicted for having in his possession meat unfit for food, he was fined £10 and costs.

Schools.—Very few of these are to my mind in a thoroughly satisfactory condition, the floors are not washed often enough, the walls also should be lime washed more frequently, and the closets (where pails are not used) should have an unlimited water supply. Many of the day schools are used also as Sunday schools, so that there is little chance of thoroughly ventilating and cleansing them. The hygiene of schools is a question of great importance, more especially at a time when epidemic diseases are prevalent.

Old and insanitary property.—Thirty-two of the old houses, I am glad to say, have been closed during the year in the following districts :—Peel Lane, Queen's Court, Spindle Hall, Adelaide Street, McCraith's Court, others as in Cheetham Street, Pot Hall, Hardfield, and Heady Hill, have been entirely pulled down. If the owners of property of this character were to some extent recompensed, as is done in some towns, there would be less difficulty in closing or altogether removing many houses, which still exist in the town and are not really fit to live in.

Disposal of Excreta, &c.—The slop water closet system having been found very satisfactory for cottage property is being pushed as much as possible, 148 of these closets have been erected during the year, some of the old middens have been put on the pail system, but this is discouraged, and a closet put in wherever the condition allows. Some of the old middens remain still unaltered, but these are gradually being dealt with. I am sorry to hear that you have determined to postpone the erection of a destructor. It should be remembered that although the greater part of the excreta is carried away by means of the closets, a large quantity of decomposing animal and vegetable matter finds its way into the ashpits, besides a quantity of excrement collected in

night vessels, which is thrown in by careless and uncleanly people. Such material should not be placed in any part of the town, or on a "tip," burning it is the only proper way of disposing of it.

Overcrowding still exists but not to the same extent as last year. A considerable number of new cottages have been built or are in course of building, these are much sought after and quickly occupied, almost too quickly in some instances, as the rooms have hardly had time to get dry. Many of the old cottages in consequence remain empty and many more would be in the same position if every workman was at liberty to choose his own house, but some of them know full well that change of residence may involve loss of work.

Zymotic Diseases.—Diphtheria of a milder type is still prevalent. 13 cases have been notified and two deaths registered during the last quarter of the year. *Scarlet Fevor* has been prevalent during the whole year. In the last quarter 81 cases were notified and 12 deaths were registered. *Small-pox*—a few cases were notified in the early part of the year. Great care was taken to prevent the spread of this disease. It fortunately happened that most of the cases occurred in my own practice, so that I was able to give personal attention to the arrangements. The plan adopted was to turn out all the unaffected persons with the exception of one who acted as nurse. A friend was employed to provide necessaries which were placed near the door or window, these were taken in when no one was about. The door was locked and neither patient nor nurses left the houses for more than a month. When the patient first took exercise he was directed to walk in the open country. Vaccination and re-vaccination has been now for some time at a very low ebb, the law in fact is held in abeyance. It behoves you on that account to make some provision for isolating the cases as they

arise. Should the disease be permitted to get a firm hold—as it has once done in my recollection—the consequences will be of a very serious character.

Lead Poisoning.—Having come across several cases exhibiting symptoms of lead poisoning, I caused a sample of water to be analysed. It was found to contain such a quantity of lead as to be injurious. The house from which the sample was obtained was connected with the main by a one-inch lead pipe 240 yards long. This has been removed and suitable iron mains substituted. It would be advisable to cause enquiry to be made as to whether this or a like condition exists in any other part of the district.

The High Mortality in young children is common in all manufacturing towns, and the cause is not far to seek, the mothers are generally employed in the factories, and can only nurse their children occasionally, they are often improperly fed, and nearly always unsuitably dressed. The fashion of allowing the legs and arms of young children to be bare in all weathers is responsible for a great deal of the sickness which occurs among them. Day nurseries would prove of great service in a district like this, and would I think reduce the mortality.

Proposed Hospital Site.—It was at one time decided that Barley Hall should be the site for the infectious diseases hospital, but owing I suppose to threatened litigation, it has been given up. In my opinion the position is a good one for a fever hospital. It is within easy distance of the centre of the town, the road is a good one, and trams run within easy walking distance. Small pox should not be isolated in or near a hospital in which other infectious diseases are treated, but should be removed into the country and isolated in a separate building. It is now proposed that the hospital shall

be erected on the rising ground above the site of the sewage works. I have pointed out to you that this would probably be an unhealthy position, the emanations from the works would be annoying if not dangerous, and the situation would surely tend to render the hospital unpopular. This is very undesirable, it should be well understood by the public that the object of the sanitary authority is to cure the patients as well as to prevent the spread of infectious diseases.

I am. Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

H. WISKEN,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

TABLE No. 5.

Sanitary Work performed during the year 1893

				Numler.
Notices served in cases of		Defective Privies and Ashpits		59
,,	,,	House Drains Stopped up and defective...		98
,,	,,	Air from the iDrans getting into Houses		41
,,	,,	Houses found in Dirty State		13
,,	,,	Offensive Accumulations		4
,,	,,	Closets Pans out of Repair		35
,,	,,	Down Spouts Leaky		1
,,	where Backyard is occupied with a Hen and Pigeon Cote			10
,,	in case of no Closet Accommodation			3
,,	,,	where a Piggery is situated too near a Dwelling House as to be a Nuisance		2
,,	,,	where Pigeons were kept in Dwelling House...		3
Fish removed and destroyed				2 cases.
Number of Observations of Works and Mill Chimneys for one hour				21
,,	Visits paid by Inspector respecting above Nuisances			1113
,,	Visits paid to Houses where Infectious Diseases prevailed			499
Privies Emptied during the Year				9397
Ashpits	,,	,, ...		11631
Cesspools	,,	,, ...		582
Sanitary Pans		,, ...		43028
Loads of Night Soil removed				6933
Trapped Gullies fixed in place of open ones...				286

G. H. Kent & Co., Printers and Stationers, York Street, Heywood.